



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration



PHMSA

U.S. Department of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration**

Operator Qualification



Contact Information

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Advisory Bulletin No. ADB-09-03
Issued Dec 7, 2009
Natural Gas and Hazardous Liquid
Operator Qualification

- Standardized notification for OQ plan transmittal and the information required in transmittal
 - Operator information, regions involved, copy of the plan, and changes to the plan
 - Do NOT send personnel information



Advisory Bulletin No. ADB-09-03

Issued Dec 7, 2009

Natural Gas and Hazardous Liquid Operator Qualification

- **Added definitions for:**
 - **Observation of on the job performance**
 - No tasks where adequate, sole method of evaluation
 - Does not measure ability to respond to AOCs
 - **Significant**
 - eliminating covered tasks, increasing interval or span of control, evaluation changes,



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- Per requirements of §192.605(a) and §195.402(a), a review of the OQ plan once per calendar year, not to exceed 15 months.
- Periodic review of work, including AOC's

Evaluations and Documentation

Evaluations

- Review based on advisory bulletin
- Should include interaction between evaluator and person being evaluated
- Assess AOCs and knowledge, skills and ability (KSA)

Evaluations and Documentation

Documentation

- Current and properly documented
- Record retention, especially in light of DIMP

Disqualification

- Plans should have means of:
 - Disqualification
 - Suspension of qualifications
 - Need to include as part of failure/root cause investigations

Protocol 9

- Part of every inspection
- Review of procedures and qualification requirements
- Abnormal Operating Conditions



B31Q

- New version of B31Q approved
 - Published November 2010
 - Addresses all remaining issues except best practices
 - Includes Effectiveness Measures for reviewing the operators plan



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B31Q

- Added definition for new construction
 - Alternate MAOP construction tasks





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B31Q

- PHMSA is reviewing new document, but has not determined if it will incorporate by reference



OQ Review

- Review of incidents, accidents, and other failures
 - Localized problem versus systematic problem
 - Modifications of tasks or procedures



Other OQ Issues

Breakout Tanks

- API-653 incorporated by reference in entirety adding tasks:
- **Inspections, repairs, and alterations** to the covered task list
- Ensure contractors qualified

Other OQ Issues

- Abnormal Operating Conditions
- Change OQ for changes in procedures
- Length of time between performing covered task



PHMSA Information Websites

PHMSA Training and Qualification

<http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline/tq>

PHMSA Pipeline Safety Regulations

<http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline/tq/regs>

PHMSA Rulemaking

[http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline/regs/
rulemaking](http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline/regs/rulemaking)